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STAFF NOTES:

Middle East Africa South Asia

State Department review completed

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MIDDLE EAST -- AFRICA -- SOUTH ASIA

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Kenya: Tension Rising 2

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Kenya

Tension Rising

Political tension has increased in Kenya as a result of a series of terrorist incidents and the disappearance of a leading critic of the Kenyatta government.

Terrorists exploded a bomb on a crowded bus last week, killing 27 people and seriously wounding at least 35 others. Two other bombings occurred recently in Naircbi, although they did not involve casualties. In addition, a freight train was derailed on March 5 in southeastern Kenya, apparently because of sabotage of the track. persons were injured.

The US embassy in Nairobi believes the causes lie in internal Kenyan politics.

Many Kenyans are apprehensive over the disappearance last week of J. M. Kariuki, a member of parliament who has criticized the government for corruption and pressed for an increased role for parliament.

Kariuki is a well-to-do businessman from a part of the politically dominant Kikuyu tribe that feels aggrieved because it has not benefitted as much from independence as Kenyatta's southern branch of the Kikuyus. Kariuki is popular partly because, like Kenyatta, he was jailed in the 1950s for involvement in the Mau Mau insurrection.

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<u>Guinea-Bissau</u>

Moscow Rolls Out Red Carpet for Delegation

A high-ranking delegation from Guinea-Bissau concluded a six-day visit in Moscow on February 25. The visit was full of effusive mutual pledges of friendship and support. The Soviets were at pains to make clear their hore that the relationship established with Bissau's ruling party during its struggle for independence from Portugal would continue now that the freedom fighters have become national leaders.

The Bissau delegation met with Kosygin and CPSU candidate Folitburo member Ponomarev. The talks resulted in the signing of economic, trade, scientific, technical and cultural assistance programs and in an agreement to establish a Soviet trade mission in Bissau.

Nothing was said openly about military assistance, but with the Bissau deputy chief of general staff in the delegation the matter was certainly on the agenda. Moscow provided military assistance during the guerrilla war, and since independence last September the Soviets have given Guinea-Bissau small arms ammunition and some aircraft, possibly including MI-8 helicopters. The Bissau delegation probably made a pitch for more arms, although with independence achieved their needs are modest. The Soviets' reluctance to go deep in their own pockets to keep Bissau's leaders happy may be lessened if the Soviets have some notion of eventually getting the use of the Cape Verde Islands.

In the communique issued on February 27, the agreement that will grant independence to the Cape Verde Islands on July 5 was singled out as an important step in the decolonization process.

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	The islands have a potential strategic value for
	Moscow should its relations with Guinea go sour.
	The Guinea-Bissau government has repeatedly said that it will follow a policy of nonalignment in conducting its foreign affairs, and it has maintained its ties with the West. The Soviets never-
	major capital visited so far by such an official delegation and, the Soviets, in contrast to their
	sometimes feckless behavior elsewhere in Africa, have made good on their past promises of aid to Guinea-Bissau.
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